

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, along with 20 of my colleagues, I will be reintroducing legislation to establish permanent statutory authority for the Public Health Service Office on Women's Health. Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

With this bill, we hope to create an enduring structure within which the current well-documented ongoing needs and gaps in research, policy, programs, and education and training in women's health will continue to be addressed. It will ensure that important initiatives—in breast cancer detection and eradication, in the promotion of healthy behaviors and disease prevention, in improved public information about women's health, in better informed health care professionals, among others—will reach fruition.

The Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health, established by the Bush administration and now within the Office of the Secretary, is the focal point for women's health activities in the Department of Health and Human Services. By administering cross-cutting initiatives across the PHS, the OWH is able to fill gaps in knowledge, and to initiate and synthesize program activities in ways that no other single PHS agency or office could accomplish alone.

In addition, the bill also makes permanent offices on women's health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration; these agencies currently have offices or coordinators which were established administratively and could be abolished at any time. Women's health offices at the National Institutes of Health and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration have been made permanent in previous legislation.

I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. KILDEE and I have introduced a technical amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965. The amendment makes a technical correction to

the student right to know provisions of the Higher Education Act.

The student right to know provisions of the Higher Education Act require institutions of higher education to report graduation rates for their student body. These statistics are compiled for the student body at large and for student athletes as well. A change made in the fiscal year 1996 omnibus appropriations bill resulted in these rates being calculated at different points in time during the academic year. As a result of this oversight, institutions will be required to keep two sets of records for calculating and reporting graduation rates.

The amendment corrects the problem by conforming the section of the Higher Education Act dealing with the reporting date for student athletes to the section of the Higher Education Act that requires preparation of graduation rates for all students. This amendment will first, allow institutions to more accurately reflect the manner in which institutions collect the data on graduation rates, and second, eliminate the burdensome task of preparing two distinct sets of graduation rates.

I urge all Members to support this technical amendment that simplifies record keeping requirements for institutions of higher education.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SPORTSMANSHIP DAY, MARCH 4, 1997

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Sportsman's Day, March 4, 1997. This day, in its celebration of sportsmanship, brings together student athletes from across the United States and 74 countries world-wide in an effort to promote the importance of fair play, integrity, character, and ethics. Teamwork, respect and cooperation, values that are integral for success in society, business, and sports alike, are the themes of the activities for the young people who take part in this day.

Established by the Institute for International Sport located at the University of Rhode Island, National Sportsman's Day is just one element of the institute's efforts to establish a greater awareness in the area of physical fitness. Other year-round components of the institute's efforts are the Student-Athlete Outreach Program, where student-athletes from high schools and colleges visit local elementary and middle schools to serve as positive role models and promote good sportsmanship, and the World Scholar-Athlete Games.

I am proud to offer my support to programs like this that provide students of all ages the opportunity to develop the skills that will help promote success and achievement throughout their lifetime. I would like to acknowledge the parents, teachers, coaches, participants, and especially those individuals who have committed

their time and efforts to broaden participation in the arena of friendly competition and sportsmanship.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION FROM VIOLENT PROGRAMMING ACT

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join millions of American parents, teachers, doctors, and children's advocates in endorsing a content-based rating system for television viewing among children. For too long Congress and the American people have left programming content decisions to motion picture and broadcasting industry executives. Parents have expressed frustration with the constant barrage of violence, sex, and adult language on television. I am pleased to join Representatives MARKEY, BURTON, SPRATT, MORAN, and others to introduce a bill that gives parents the ability to determine what type of programming content is appropriate for their children to watch.

Parents are tired of having Hollywood tell them what is best for their children. Congress gave the broadcasting industry a golden opportunity to meet this challenge in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Instead of addressing these longstanding concerns, the industry proposed an age-based rating system that is still inadequate because it does not inform parents of objectionable programming content. Furthermore, the age-based proposal will continue to prevent parents from making informed choices about their children's viewing behavior. The rapid growth of network and cable programming has been a mixed blessing for parents. They are left with the daunting task of learning the content of numerous shows and channels. The age-based rating system will not help make this task any easier.

I have heard from parents and child advocates all across Oregon who say that they want to know what to expect from a particular television show. They also want to know if the show contains explicit sex, adult language, and excessive violence. Most importantly, they want to make their own decisions about what their own children watch, not leaving the decisions up to television executives. A parent does not want to be told that their child is old enough to watch a "TV-PG" rated show. The majority of parents are smart enough to know that this category is quite broad, covering a wide range of shows.

According to a nationwide survey conducted by the National Parent Teachers Association [PTA], over 80 percent of parents stated that they want separate ratings for sex, violence, and language content to help parents decide what shows their children can and cannot watch. In fact, a large number of organizations have criticized the age-based rating system including the National PTA, the American Medical Association [AMA], the American Academy

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